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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

27 July 1959

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DAILY BRIEF

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

USSR-Geneva: [Moscow will continue to "mark time for a few days" at Geneva in view of Khrushchev's recent absence and his current substantive discussions with Vice President Nixon beginning 26 July, [redacted]

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[redacted] the USSR would probably continue to insist on developing a "working form" of an all-German committee before agreeing to any interim Berlin solution, and reiterated that the Soviet delegation would present a new proposal "when the time is opportune." [redacted]

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

Taiwan Strait: [In an apparent effort to test US reaction to resumed Nationalist aerial reconnaissance with fighter escort, the Chinese Nationalists on 23 July ordered their air force to photograph gun positions and airfields on the China mainland coast opposite the Chinmen Island area.] The order

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[was later rescinded after a protest by American authorities. Ambassador Drumright believes Taiwan's growing restiveness over US restraints on aerial reconnaissance stems from a strong desire to obtain intelligence in areas opposite Taiwan, particularly in view of Khrushchev's remarks on missiles in China.] [redacted]
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Ethiopia: The American adviser of the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry reports that Emperor Haile Selassie's recent visits to Cairo, Moscow, and Paris have won support for Ethiopia's position on the Somali border issue and its opposition to a Greater Somalia, which would incorporate part of Ethiopia. He also reports that the Ethiopians were pleased with Nasir's expressed willingness to end Cairo's press and radio attacks on Ethiopia and his switch on the Somali issue.] [redacted]

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III. THE WEST

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France-Tunisia: French Premier Debré is reported to have given a favorable hearing to a plan submitted by military leaders in Algeria to clean out Algerian rebel sanctuaries in Tunisia. No such broad plan is likely to be approved, however, unless the situation becomes much more irritating. The extensive campaign General Challe is currently undertaking against rebel bands scattered in the mountains of eastern Algeria is probably absorbing major French military attention.] [redacted]

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DAILY BRIEF

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NO West Germany: [Bonn political leaders expect a climax at Geneva next week and fear that domestic pressures may make it impossible for the Western powers, particularly London, to envisage a break-up of the conference over Moscow's demand for an all-German commission. Chancellor Adenauer is adamantly opposed to such a commission and Bonn plans to fight against acceptance, possibly even to the point of refusing to participate. On 22 July the cabinet rejected Foreign Minister Brentano's proposal to offer Poland and Czechoslovakia non-aggression pacts, with eventual diplomatic recognition implied.]

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NO Belgium: Finance Minister Van Houtte says it will be impossible for Belgium to attain its goals under the NATO minimum essential force requirements or to comply fully with SHAPE recommendations for a 10-percent increase in the overall defense budget. Van Houtte is intent on balancing the budget, and fears that an attempt to impose additional taxes to meet budgetary needs would bring down the coalition. The anticipated Belgian default is typical of the situation in several other NATO countries.]

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LATE ITEM

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DAILY BRIEF

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Moscow Marking Time at Geneva

[The Soviet leaders apparently are awaiting the results of private talks with Vice President Nixon before making any new move in the foreign ministers' conference.]

[redacted] in view of Khrushchev's recent absence from Moscow and the Vice President's visit, he foresaw no substantive developments in the conference "for some time" and that the conference would be "marking time for a few days."

[In another reference to the Vice President on 22 July [redacted] said "our people are ready to talk to him about everything." He said also that the Vice President will be told in Moscow that while the USSR is ready to discuss an interim agreement on Berlin, it will not be "pressured into terms." He added that the Western "bluff" on a break-off had not been taken seriously, in view of "indications from other Western delegations" that the negotiations would continue "at least another fortnight."]

[redacted] has alleged on at least four separate occasions since 14 July that the Soviet delegation will present a new proposal "when the time is opportune." He asserted on 23 July that the USSR would probably continue to insist on developing a "working form" for an all-German committee before agreeing to any interim Berlin solution.]

[Instructions reportedly received by bloc journalists from the Soviet delegation at Geneva on 23 July suggest that during the coming week, Moscow will probably try to promote the impression that there has been a considerable degree of agreement on the Berlin issue, and thereby try to confine the discussions to the all-German committee question. The briefing also suggests)]

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[that if no progress is made toward establishment of the committee, Moscow might try to turn the discussions to setting a date for a summit conference to which would be submitted a "common document noting the differences in points of view.]

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[] reports of a bloc summit meeting in Moscow "soon after Nixon's departure," remarking that it had been discussed prior to Khrushchev's trip to Poland. He said that while the original idea to make it a CEMA meeting had been broadened, he believed the emphasis would still be on economic matters.] []

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

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Chinese Nationalists Cancel Air Reconnaissance Order

[In an apparent effort to test American reaction, the Chinese Nationalist Ministry of Defense on 23 July issued an order to the Nationalist Air Force to conduct an escorted reconnaissance mission to photograph gun positions and airfields on the China mainland in the immediate vicinity of Chinmen Island. The order was canceled after an American protest.]

[Ambassador Drumright reports that the Chinese Nationalists have displayed a growing restiveness over the agreed restrictions on aerial reconnaissance activity over the mainland. The Nationalists appear genuinely concerned over Soviet Premier Khrushchev's references, in his talks with Averill Harriman, to rocket sites on the Chinese mainland, and are anxious to obtain full information on any such Chinese Communist capability. Minister of Defense Yu Ta-wei has informed Admiral Smoot, commander of the US Taiwan Defense Command, that the United States has a "moral obligation" to ensure that information is obtained on the alleged rocket sites.]

[At present, the Nationalists' standard reconnaissance aircraft is the RF-84F, which requires fighter escort. They have four supersonic RF-100s, however, and are scheduled to receive four high-performance RF-101s in August. Both of these types should be able to operate without escort, and a Nationalist request for permission to use them to photograph the coastal areas near Taiwan may be anticipated.]

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Ethiopia Gains Diplomatic Support From Emperor's Trip

Emperor Haile Selassie appears to have been successful in his recent visits to Cairo, Moscow, and Paris in gaining increased support for Ethiopia in its problems with its Somali neighbors. The boundary between Ethiopia and the UN trust territory of Somalia remains undemarcated despite eight years of international negotiation. Furthermore, Addis Ababa is increasingly concerned about the Greater Somalia movement, which proposes to unite 2,500,000 nomadic Somali tribesmen at the expense of a large slice of Ethiopian territory.

The Ethiopians were very pleased with Nasir's attitude, according to a high official in the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry. Past relations between the two nations have been tense because of Cairo's inflammatory radio broadcasts and activities among Somalia's Moslem tribesmen. Nasir reportedly agreed to end the press attacks, promised complete support at the United Nations for Ethiopia on the Somali issues, and agreed to give no support to the Greater Somalia movement. Ethiopia plans to test the new Egyptian attitude by sending a delegation to begin negotiations. Nasir's apparent about-face probably reflects his current desire for some kind of an accommodation with his African neighbors.

In Moscow, the Ethiopians also were promised support on Somali issues. They expect Moscow to raise the Greater Somali problem as a springboard for an attack on British policy. The Ethiopian Foreign Ministry official said that the \$100,000,000 credit to Ethiopia is for 17 years at an interest rate of 2.5 percent, to be repaid in cash or commodities. The source also said Paris reiterated its opposition to a Greater Somalia and had offered to express support for Ethiopia on the frontier question.

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III. THE WEST

Belgian Default on Minimum Force Requirements Foreseen

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[Finance Minister Van Houtte says Belgium will not be able to attain its goals under the NATO minimum essential force (MC-70) requirements, and "hopes" that Defense Minister Gilson, who is currently in Washington, will tell this to American military authorities. In a 23 July conversation with an American Embassy official in Brussels, Van Houtte said that, despite the recent improvement in the Belgian economy, it would be "politically and economically impossible" to comply with SHAPE recommendations for a 10-percent increase in the over-all defense budget. Van Houtte added that the Belgian public will not long accept the continued high cost of maintaining Belgian forces in West Germany, and he deplored the lack of progress toward integration of NATO forces which would reduce the defense burden on the smaller NATO countries.]

[The Social Christian - Liberal government is not likely to make an all-out defense effort. The Social Christians believe that they lost the 1954 elections on defense issues. In keeping with the party's campaign pledges during the 1958 campaign, the government is reducing the military service term, apparently in preparation for eventual replacement of compulsory military service with a voluntary system. Moreover, the Social Christians and the Liberals have frequently been at odds on social and economic issues, and Liberal leaders have made it clear they would desert the coalition if direct taxes are increased.]

[The Belgian situation typifies the trend among NATO countries toward reduced military efforts because of domestic problems, and highlights the chronic problem of the gap between national defense plans and NATO requirements. At a meeting of the NATO Council on 8 July when anxiety was expressed over new Danish defense proposals which in effect also abandoned MC-70 force goals, the Belgian representative showed concern lest this start a chain reaction. Most NATO countries accepted the MC-70 force requirements as a guide, but did not make commitments to meet them.]

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